

VSH Futures Group To Reconvene on Wednesday

The Vermont State Hospital Future Planning Advisory Group will meet on Wednesday, June 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Skylight Conference Room in the Waterbury state office complex. Here's the agenda:

- Opening Remarks (Secretary Mike Smith)
- Where We Go From Here (Acting Deputy Paul Blake)
 - Discussion
- Report on Developing Community Resources (Paul Dupre, WCMHS & Jeff Rothenberg, CMC)
 - Discussion, suggested modifications
- Report on Developing Clinical Care Management Approach (Bea Grause & Jill Olson, VAHHS)
- Health Department's Strategic Implementation Plan for Mental Health
 - Discussion, suggested modifications
- Next Steps and Meeting Dates
- Public Comment

Transformation Grant Application Goes to the Governor

Final touches were being applied this morning to the Vermont application for a SAMHSA Transformation Grant (see Update, May 13) and the writing team will be working through the weekend to finish the application (due June 1). The project team would like to acknowledge the hard work and outstanding contributions of many individuals to this grant. The stakeholder group of more than 30 individuals met three times and provided lots of feedback and materials outside of meetings to the project team. The "working group," using the input of the stakeholder committee, developed the text in weekly working sessions and countless hours of editing and reviewing drafts. We would like to particularly acknowledge the contribution of the following working group members: Jerry Goessel, NAMI-VT; Linda Corey, VPS; Kathy Holsopple of the Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; and Michael Hartman, Washington County Mental Health Services. The stakeholder committee has asked to reconvene when we receive the reviewer comments and scores from SAMHSA, likely in late August, in order to learn what we can about our process from the review.

FAHC Contract Details Being Worked Out

Attorneys for the Health Department and FAHC are working out details of the contract agreed upon in principle last week. When a draft is ready, it will be shared with Vermont State Hospital Governing Body members as soon as possible.

Forensic Legislation Advances

Compromise language for changing the forensic evaluation statutes has been developed and acted upon favorably by both the House Human Services and the Senate Health and Welfare committees. Passage looks favorable.

Transportation & Restraint

A revised draft of the Department of Health's involuntary mental health Transport and Escort guidelines are posted for comment at www.healthyvermonters.info/mh/mhindex.shtml. They will be considered at the next meeting of the working group on involuntary mental health transportation. Comments may be addressed to John Pierce, Assistant Director of Mental Health Programs (jpierce@vdh.statet.vt.us).

Corrections Mental Health Hearings Planned

The Department of Corrections will hold two public comment forums to gather information on the delivery of inmate mental health services to persons incarcerated in Vermont. These forums will assist in the development of a Request For Proposals (RFP) to provide mental health services in Corrections. These forums will provide interested parties with opportunities for input into the RFP; they are not forums for prospective bidders for the procurement of mental health services for persons who are incarcerated. For further information, contact Dr. Susan Wehry, Health Services Director, Department of Corrections (swehry@doc.state.vt.us). The forums will be held at the following locations.

- Tuesday, June 7, 2005, 6 – 8 p.m.
Comfort Inn and Suites
Green Mountain Room
813 Fairfax Road
St. Albans, VT 05478
- Thursday, June 9, 2005, 6 – 8 p.m.
Riverside Middle School
Auditorium
13 Fairgrounds Road
Springfield, VT 05156

Deputy Search

The search advisory group received the applications of more than a dozen candidates last week. Reviews were to be completed by the close of business on Thursday and were being reviewed this morning. The candidates were evaluated according to a screening tool (See May 6 Update), and the process will continue until a clear choice emerges to be recommended to the commissioner.

VSH Census

The Vermont State Hospital census was 51 as of midnight Thursday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 47.5.